

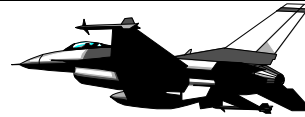
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# AIR FORCE PERIODONTICS CONSULTANT NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 1998

## *A Yearly Quest*

*by Col Mike Mills*

Congratulations are in order for the three Amigos, Major's Dan Greising, Steve Helm, and Alan Moritz for passing their first hurdle toward board certification, the exhausting written examination. Like their counterparts from a year ago, they will be challenging the orals this coming May, just 10 months out of the residency. Joining them for two days in purgatory will be Lt Colonel Chuck Powell. May the wind be in their sails and the literature at the tips of their tongues. Good luck gentlemen!

## *ADA Codes??? Growing Pains*

*by Col Mike Mills*

Hopefully by now most of you have become somewhat accustomed to using the ADA Codes. Lt Colonel Gerald Caron has been very proactive in intercepting questions from the field and providing timely answers to us. As expected, several questions have been posed that will require a tri-service interpretation in order to fit into our military environment. This process does take some time as you can imagine. I still encourage each of you to provide input to me or Lt Colonel Caron. An update of some periodontal codes and current interpretation has been compiled by Lt Colonel Mick McDonnell and is provided in a section at the end of the newsletter.



## *Perio Rank(ings)*

*by Col Mike Mills*



Several of our colleagues will be happy to know that the spontaneous twitching that they have experienced since the November Promotion Board will gradually disappear, at least until their next board.

Besides the twitch, three have heads at least one hat size larger. I refer to our newest Colonel Selects: Brian Mealey, Denny Miller, and Scott Semba. They should be proud but somewhat humbled by their selection as these boards were extremely competitive. A special recognition should go to Brian Mealey who was selected two years BTZ; quite an honor. Remind me not to stand behind his *afterburners*.

Selected to O-5 were Major Janet Martin (also with *afterburners* on as she was one year BTZ), Major Al Moritz and Major Ridge Gilley. To O-4 was Captain Juan Lopez. Juan is our newest periodontist accession now assigned to Hurlburt Field, Florida. Congratulations to all of these superb officers.

## *The Competitive Edge*

*by Col Mike Mills*

Our residents continue to put their best foot forward in representing Air Force



Periodontics on a national and international scale. At the 1997 American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting in San Diego, Lt Col (Sel) Al Moritz was one of the three finalists chosen from a large field of nominees for the inaugural Dr. and Mrs. Gerald R. Kramer Scholarship for Excellence Award. The nomination package requires submission of a clinical case documented in board format as well as an essay and letters of recommendation. Although Al did not win the \$10,000 prize, he most certainly made a huge imprint with his impeccable preparation and exemplary style.

Major Karl Lackler continued our string of Orban Prize competitors and took home an Honorable Mention during the 1997 competition in San Diego. Karl joins the ranks of an elite group of individuals who have demonstrated a genuine dedication to research excellence.

At this year's AADR Meeting this March in Minneapolis, Major Mike Poth (3<sup>rd</sup> year resident), and Lt Colonel (Sel) Jack Lincks and Major Doug Curry (2<sup>nd</sup> year residents) will be presenting research from their masters degree projects. In addition, Doug will be competing against a field of 20 budding scientists for the Edward H. Hatton Research Award. We know that Doug is prepared to meet this challenge and will be silently cheering for from afar.

Doug and Jack also represented us well in the John F. Prichard Prize Competition at the winter meeting of the Southwest Society of Periodontists. They are commended for translating highly technical research into language even a mere mortal would understand.

**CONFIDENTIAL** Perio Research In Progress

## ***Boston or Bust***

*by Col Mike Mills*

Our AAP meeting in San Diego appeared to be well attended based upon the numbers at our Air Force Luncheon. Given the local funding constraints for Continuing Education at most Air Force clinics and reduction in AFIT-funded TDY's, I fear that our attendance at the American Academy of Periodontology Annual Session in Boston from 13-16 September 1998, may be somewhat smaller than normal. This raises the question as to the feasibility of having a luncheon in Boston. As most of you know, it takes a lot of time and effort to organize such a function from a distance. If our numbers are too few, then the cost also becomes prohibitive. Therefore, it is best that we forego the luncheon this year and plan on meeting in a breakout session immediately following the District 8 Scientific Program as we did during the AAP Meeting in New Orleans.

We definitely have plans for an Air Force function when the venue is in San Antonio for 1999.

## ***An El Niño Year***

*by Col Mike Mills*

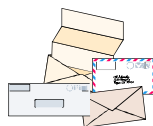
All disastrous events seem to be blamed on El Niño this year, so I suppose we could also include the dismal number of candidates applying for long-term training. We had only two candidates meet the October 1997 Selection Board for periodontics training, but fortunately both were highly qualified. Selected to begin



training in 1999 were Major Kenneth Conner and Captain Melvin Moore.

The small number of applicants was not a total surprise as this has been the trend for the past four selection boards. Does this mean we are not concerned? Absolutely Not! But being concerned is very different from pushing the panic button. Concern has given rise to important initiatives to reverse this trend. For instance, the numbers of scholarships available through the Health Profession Scholarship Program (HPSP) have increased as have the numbers of qualified dental students applying for these. In addition, we have all been pleased to see the increase in special pays and the continuing effort by HQ USAF/SGD and others to secure a Multi-Year Contract for all. These initiatives are projected to increase both recruitment and retention. The future appears promising; we only need to survive these leaner years.

If there is a silver lining to the El Niño clouds, it is the current opportunity for training. At this next October Board, we will need to select two candidates to begin training in 1999 and four for 2000. I will continue to need your help in encouraging young dental officers to apply. But please remember that quality will not be sacrificed just for numbers. We all have a vested interest in being the best periodontics service in the world.



### ***E-Mail Updates***

Please send me any changes to your E-Mail address that have taken place since

October 1997. Send to mills\_m@whmc-lafb.af.mil.

### ***Dues \$\$ Reminder***

*by Col Mike Mills*

All of you should have received a letter from Commander Brian Nicole updating your dues status with District 8. Please note that Colonel Byron Wade has now assumed the position as treasurer. Send your payment to Byron at 120 Summerlin Ridge, O'Fallon, Illinois 62269.



### ***What's New? Products Update***

*by Col Steve Ruffin*

In case you haven't already heard, the Gore Regenerative Technologies and Implant Innovations, Inc. (3i) team has finally seen fit to offer a 25% government discount on all Gore products, with the exception of their teflon suturing material (no discount). This is particularly good news now that Guidor, who also offered a 25% discount, is no longer in business, forcing many of us to depend more on the Gore Resolut® bioabsorbable membranes. Please also note that 3i continues to give the same 30% government discount on all its products that it has in the past. Speaking of Gore



Resolut® membranes, you are probably already aware that Gore has recently developed a bioabsorbable material with “superior handling characteristics and extended longevity.” According to their product representative, the new Gore Resolut XT® is not as stiff as the old material and is supposed to remain in place for 8-10 weeks, as opposed to 4-6 weeks with the original material. In addition, it comes with three new membrane configurations -- the Xlarge Single Tooth Narrow, Premolar/Molar Interproximal, and the Xlarge Wraparound --so that you now have a total of nine configurations to choose from. The original Gore Resolut® membranes are still available, but there is some uncertainty as to whether they will continue to be marketed in the future. The original Gore Resolut® membranes are still available, but will be phased out over the next few months. For further information, you can contact 3i Customer Service at 1-800-342-5454.

Another new product you may be interested in knowing more about is Emdogain® Enamel Matrix Derivative by Biora, Inc. We recently acquired some of this material and are anxious to assess its effectiveness, but as of yet, have only limited knowledge about its usefulness and handling characteristics. Although there unfortunately aren't yet any controlled human clinical trials to either recommend or contraindicate its use, Dr. Tom Wilson recently presented a clinical discussion, during which he showed several cases using this material. He indicated that the material is somewhat technique sensitive, and that best results can be obtained by etching, treating and closing each site separately before going on to the next one. His impression is that when used in deep, narrow, non-furcation defects, the

healing response is good, with no adverse effects noted. If you are interested in obtaining further information, you can reach Biora at 1-888-246-7287.

Please, if you have questions, comments or information you'd like to share concerning any of the products we use in our specialty, please let me hear from you. I can be reached at DSN 554-5236 or you can e-mail me at: [ruffin@whmc-lafb.af.mil](mailto:ruffin@whmc-lafb.af.mil).



*by Col Mike Mills*

Everyone with at least three or more years on station should make sure that a current AF Form 3849 or AF Form 620 has been completed and on file with Colonel (Sel) Lynn Johnson: HQ AFPC/DPAMD, 550 C St W STE 25, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4727. Please try to do so by the middle of this summer. As a gentle reminder, I would also like to have a courtesy copy.

### ***To Code or Not to Code - Helpful ADA Coding Tips***

*by Lt Col Mick McDonnell*

It has been 4 months since we have adopted the ADA procedural codes and

I'm sure there are still some inconsistencies and confusion about which codes to take for



certain procedures. Through guidance from the AAP and HQ USAF/SGD we have been able to answer most of the questions posed to us from those of you in the field. Although there are some gray areas still open for interpretation, the following guidance will hopefully clear up some of the questions you may have about certain codes.

1. Code 04274, distal or proximal wedge, should not be reported with other surgical procedures in the same quadrant on the same date. The ADA definition for the code indicates "when not performed in conjunction with surgical procedures in the same anatomical area" For example, if osseous surgery is performed in the same quadrant you can not take a distal wedge code in conjunction with the osseous surgery code. The AAP indicated that the 04274 code was incorrectly listed in the ADA Current Dental Terminology as a separate procedure that could be taken with osseous surgery. The bottom line on distal wedges - don't take it with any other surgical code in the same quadrant.

2. Code 04249, clinical crown lengthening - hard tissue, should not be reported with osseous surgery for the same teeth. The ADA defines clinical crown lengthening as a procedure performed in a healthy periodontal environment as opposed to osseous surgery which is performed in the presence of periodontal disease. When you are treating periodontal disease in conjunction with crown lengthening take credit for osseous surgery only. A question was asked if scaling and root planing credit could be taken with crown lengthening if it

is needed. The answer is no. If scaling and root planing is needed, it is a diseased site and you should be taking osseous surgery

(04249) credit instead of crown lengthening. Scaling and root planing credit is included in the osseous surgery code. If you are crown lengthening multiple teeth in an arch you may take one credit for every 3 teeth that are crown lengthened with a maximum of 3 credits per quadrant.

3. When performing guided tissue regeneration the following codes should be taken: 04260, osseous surgery (which includes flap entry and closure), 04263, bone replacement graft - first site (04264 for each additional site grafted), and either 04266 (resorbable) or 04267 (nonresorbable) per site, per tooth. You may take two GTR credits per tooth if non-contiguous sites are treated with 2 separate membranes. Remember that the grafting codes and GTR codes do not include flap entry and closure. The AAP recommends the use of 04260, osseous surgery to obtain credit for flap management.

4. If using GTR for recession defects (i.e., root coverage) use the pedicle soft tissue graft code 4270 with either 04266 (resorbable) or 04267 (nonresorbable).

5. Hard tissue ridge augmentation is coded 07955, repair of maxillofacial soft and hard tissue defect.

6. The AAP indicated that code 04910, periodontal maintenance procedures, does not include a dental examination. Since the examination is an important part of any maintenance appointment, it is appropriate to use 00120, periodic oral evaluation, in conjunction with 04910.

7. Soft tissue graft procedures (04270, 04271, 04273) should be credited per site.

8. Routine post-operative appointments for dressing and suture removal are included in the surgical



procedure. Once the sutures are removed, follow-up appointments to evaluate healing and oral hygiene can be coded 09430, office visit for observation. Remember, do not take 01330 code, oral hygiene instruction, for routine post-operative instructions.

9. Intraoral photographs are a major time sink in most training programs and for most practitioners that like to document their cases photographically. Technically, photos taken strictly for teaching purposes get no ADA credit; but in most cases, these photos are also used for diagnostic purposes. After much discussion, it was determined that code 00471, diagnostic photographs, be taken once for initial evaluation photos, once for all surgical photos combined, and once for final post-treatment photos. In other words, a completed case start to finish would receive a maximum of three 00471 codes.

As we become more accustomed to these ADA codes, consistency throughout the Dental Corps will increase. Please continue to send questions and comments concerning ADA codes to either Colonel Mike Mills or Lt Col Gerard Caron at HQ USAF/SGD (DSN 297-5070)

## *Civilian National Consultant*

*by Col Mike Mills*

**D**r. (Colonel, USAF, Ret) Bill Killoy has recently submitted his resignation as our Civilian National Consultant in Periodontics. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Bill for his selfless dedication and outstanding support of the Air Force Dental Service. Bill has and always will be a "Blue

Suiter" at heart.

As we begin the search for a new Civilian National Consultant, I would like to

give all of you the opportunity to make a nomination. Please remember that one of the most important criteria for this position is a willingness to **actively serve** as a consultant. Contact me with your suggestions.

## *Items of Interest*

**1998 District 8 Scientific Session:** Anyone interested in presenting at this session on Saturday, 12 September 1998, should contact Lt Colonel Vince Takacs at DSN 554-4196 or E-mail: takacs@whmc-lafb.af.mil. Original research, clinical investigations or clinical case reports of interest meet the criteria for this forum.

**1998 American Board of Periodontology written exam:** 0800 to 1600, Friday, 11 September 1998.

### **Future Meetings:**

**IADR/AADR:** Vancouver, Canada; 10-14 March 1999.

**AAP Dental Implant Conference:** Phoenix, Arizona; 17-19 June 1999.

**1999 AAP Annual Meeting:** San Antonio, Texas; 26-29 September 1999.